LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT





Sheriff Lee Baca

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"The Sheriff's Department has extraordinary successes...and we learned to be resilient, we get busy and fix our problems. We do believe that safety comes first in the context of the public, and we've shown a record-low crime rate." First of all, crime rates are at a record low, close to a 35 to 40 year low, and the part one offenses decreased three percent this year. Overall, in our rate, per 10,000 citizens we have about less than a 300 per 10,000 in terms of our crime rate. Which shows that we're very, very low in the scheme of how we protect the public in our 43 contract cities, in our 100 plus unincorporated areas, and we're very excited about those successes.

When you come to our jails, we are also in jail reform mode right now, and we believe that it's important to share the successes with our education-based incarceration. Eight thousand inmates are now in school getting their GEDs and preparing themselves for a better life. In addition to that there's a huge amount of reduction in the use of force activity, because the culture in the jails is transforming into one of education as opposed to pure punitive.

And when you look at the department from the standpoint of the budget, we had endured, over the past three budgets, close to an average of about a \$150 million dollar cut. And that meant that deputies and professional staff had to work on other assignments to avoid layoffs, because that was really an important priority of mine.

So when you get down to it, the Sheriff's Department has extraordinary successes when it comes to adaptiveness, and we learned to be resilient, we get busy and fix our problems. We do believe that safety comes first in the context of the public, we've shown a record-low crime rate. And so the key is the core values leads to this, and I'll recite them:

As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I commit myself to honorably perform my duty, with respect for the dignity of all people. The integrity to do what is right, and fight what is wrong, wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all that I do, and the courage to stand against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and bigotry in all its forms.

Thank you.

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